

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8974

USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE AID GOALS

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE STATEMENT OF INTENT AT CIEC MEETING TO DOUBLE AID TO LDGS OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS WAS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN MET THE EYE. FOREIGN MINISTRY HOPES TO ACHIEVE A MORE MEANINGFUL INCREASE THROUGH STEADY PRODDING DURING BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND THROUGH PUSHING FOR OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON AID WHICH WILL CREATE AND SUSTAIN ATMOSPHERE OF EXPECTATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JUNE 14 FONOFF OFFICIAL (TANAKA, ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU PLANNING DIVISION) PROVIDED BACKGROUND ON ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL KURANARI'S ANNOUNCEMENT AT CIEC MINISTERIAL MEETING THAT JAPAN WOULD MORE THAN DOUBLE ITS AID DURING THE COMING FIVE YEARS.

3. TANAKA SAID THAT THAT STATEMENT, DESIGNED TO HARMONIZE WITH A SIMILAR PLANNED U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT, WAS LEFT DELIBERATELY VAGUE IN ORDER TO ENABLE ALL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO AGREE TO IT. NO BASE YEAR WAS MENTIONED AND
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THERE WAS NO INDICATION WHETHER APPROPRIATIONS OR DISBURSEMENTS WERE MEANT; INFLATION, WHICH IS RUNNING HIGHER IN JAPAN THAN IN SEVERAL OTHER LEADING AID DONOR NATIONS, OF COURSE WAS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. TANAKA ESTIMATED THAT A DOUBLING OF THE NOMINAL YEN VALUE OF JAPANESE AID APPROPRIATIONS WOULD LIFT THE SHARE OF THE JAPANESE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT APPROPRIATED TO AID TO OVER 0.30

PERCENT WITHIN FIVE YEARS; THE CORRESPONDING 1976
FIGURE WAS 0.28 PERCENT.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, TANAKA CONTINUED, IS STILL
PUSHING FOR AN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)
DISBURSEMENT FIGURE OF 0.36 PERCENT OF GNP IN 1982. SINCE
DISBURSEMENTS ORDINARILY REACH NO MORE THAN ABOUT 80
TO 85 PERCENT OF COMMITMENTS, THE 0.36 PERCENT FIGURE
WHICH WAS THE 1975 AVERAGE FOR DAC MEMBER COUNTRY AID
DISBURSEMENTS, REPRESENTS A MUCH MORE AMBITIOUS INTENTION
THAN THAT EXPRESSED BY KURANARI.

5. TANAKA SAID THAT THE FINANCE MINISTRY STILL REFUSES
TO PERMIT THE 0.36 PERCENT FIGURE TO BE SET AS A TARGET
BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. MOF OBJECTIONS TO THE IDEA
OF A MULTI-YEAR AID COMMITMENT HAVE NOT BEEN OVERCOME,
ALTHOUGH KURANARI'S STATEMENT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN
ACCEPTABLE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE INCREASE TO THE LEVEL
CONTEMPLATED CAN BE TAKEN AS VIRTUALLY AUTO-
MATIC.

6. TANAKA INDICATED THAT EVEN WITHOUT A FORMAL MULTI-YEAR
COMMITMENT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HOPES TO ACHIEVE ITS
TARGET FIGURE BY SETTING A PATTERN OF AID BUDGET INCREASES
LIKE THIS FISCAL YEAR'S OF OVER 20 PERCENT AND BY KEEPING
EXPECTATION UP THROUGH A SERIES OF KURANARI-TYPE PUBLIC
STATEMENTS AT APPROPRIATE MOMENTS. HE SAID THAT ACCORDING
TO CURRENT PROJECTIONS ANNUAL NOMINAL INCREASES OF OVER
20 PERCENT IN THE AID BUDGET WILL INDEED BE NECESSARY
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FOR ACHIEVING A DISBURSEMENT FIGURE OF 0.36 PERCENT OF
GNP WITHIN FIVE YEARS.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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